Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An endodontic instrument, comprising:

a shaft that includes an end, a tip, one or more flutes, and a longitudinal axis, wherein at least one flute includes a cutting edge that is the leading edge of the flute when the instrument is rotated in a first direction of rotation about the longitudinal axis so that the instrument is configured to cut, without requiring force to be applied to the instrument in an end-to-tip longitudinal direction, when the shaft is rotated in ~~a~~ the first direction of rotation about the longitudinal axis, and wherein the at least one flute spirals around the shaft in ~~an~~ the end-to-tip longitudinal direction and in a second direction of rotation that is opposite from the first direction of rotation.

2. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one helix that includes one or more cross cuts.

3. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein:

the shaft includes a portion where the cutting edge is rolled.

4. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein:

the one or more flutes have S-shaped splines.

5. (Original) The instrument of claim 4, wherein:

the tip is a non-cutting tip.

6. (Original) The instrument of claim 4, wherein:

the tip is a cutting tip.

7. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein:

the cutting edge of the flute has a zero cutting angle.

8. (Original) The instrument of claim 7, wherein:

a cross section of the shaft has a quadrilateral-like shape.

9. (Original) The instrument of claim 7, wherein:

a cross section of the shaft has a triangle-like shape.

10. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein:

the shaft is fabricated from one of Ni-Ti and Ni-Ti alloy.

11. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising:

an attachment for coupling the shank end of the instrument to an engine operable to rotate the instrument.

12. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein:

the cutting edge is a right handed cutting edge.

13. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein:

the cutting edge is a left handed cutting edge.

14. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein:

the instrument if a hand-type endodontic instrument.

15. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein:

the instrument is a rotary-type endodontic instrument.

16. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein:

the one or more flutes taper in a shank-to-tip direction.

17. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein:

at least one flute has no radial lands.

18. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein:

at least one flute has reduced radial lands.

19. (Currently Amended) An endodontic instrument, comprising:

a shaft that includes an end, a tip, one or more flutes, and a longitudinal axis, wherein at least one flute includes a cutting edge that is the leading edge of the flute when the instrument is rotated in a first direction of rotation about the longitudinal axis so that the instrument is configured to cut, without requiring the instrument to be threaded into a material to be cut, when the shaft is rotated in ~~a~~ the first direction of rotation about the longitudinal axis, and wherein the at least one flute is situated to wrap around the shaft in an end-to-tip longitudinal direction and in a second direction of rotation that is opposite from the first direction of rotation~~, wherein the at least one flute includes one or more cross cuts, and wherein the at least one flute has one of reduced or no radial lands~~.

20. (Currently Amended) An endodontic instrument, comprising:

a shaft that includes an end, a tip, one or more flutes, and a longitudinal axis, wherein the instrument is a rotary type instrument and at least one flute includes a cutting edge that is the leading edge of the flute when the instrument is rotated in a first direction of rotation about the longitudinal axis so that the instrument is configured to cut when the shaft is rotated in ~~a~~ the first direction of rotation about the longitudinal axis, wherein the instrument is not required to be rotated in a reciprocating manner in order to cut, and wherein the at least one flute is situated to wrap around the shaft in an end-to-tip longitudinal direction and in a second direction of rotation that is opposite from the first direction of rotation.